

Book VI.  
Title VIII.

Concerning the right to the gold ring and the restoration of free birth.<sup>1</sup>  
(De jure aureorum anulorum et de natalibus restituendis.)

Dig. 40.10.11.

6.8.1. Emperors Diocletian and Maximian and the Caesars to Philadelphus.

The ancient natal rights<sup>2</sup> and the rights of free birth cannot be granted by the order of decurions, but could only be sought from us.

Given at Ravenna March 18 (290 or 293).

6.8.2. The same Emperors and the Caesars to Eumenes.

The right to the use of the gold ring granted by imperial favor, bestows, while the bearers live, the status of a freedman, not that of a free-born man. But the freedmen to whom ancient birth rights are restored are, by our favor, given the status of free-born men.

Given at Sirmium (294).

Note.

The right to wear the gold ring was the right of a freeman. Restitution of natal rights, which could only be obtained from the emperor, enrolled a freedman or a slave as a free-born person, but inasmuch as the patron lost his rights as such, his consent and that of his children was usually required. Buckland 91. By Novel 78, natal rights were restored to all manumitted persons, without loss to the patron of his rights as such, unless he waived them.

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<sup>1</sup> [Blume] See note to C. 6.4.1.

<sup>2</sup> [Blume] Natal rights of men in general.